July 18, 2008 Morning Highlights 2008-52 Contact: Public Affairs, 356-5511

WILDLAND FIRE UPDATE

The next morning highlights will be compiled and posted on Monday, July 21.

Alaska

No new wildland fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center on Thursday. Statewide, there are 40 active fires, 39 of which are being monitored. The Goose Slough Fire, roughly six miles NE of Bettles, is the only staffed fire. Sixty-Five personnel are assigned to the 2,564-acre fire which was declared contained at 11 pm. Thursday. Crews will pull remaining hose from allotments and will conduct a final grid. Equipment and supplies will be backhauled to Fairbanks and all remaining resources are expected to be demobed on Saturday. Pilots, please check NOTAMS as there is a Temporary Flight Restriction in place.

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center a statewide total of 322 fires to date have burned approximately 76,936 acres.

Lower-48

As of July 18, a total of 705 Alaskans from State and Federal agencies are assigned to fires outside of Alaska.

The sixth group of five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews has been mobilized for fire assignments in California. The crews are: Buckland, Mt. Village, Stebbins #1, Tok and Holy Cross. They are expected to leave from Fairbanks on Saturday, July 19 at approximately 9:00 AM. The Scammon Bay, Noorvik #1, Allakaket #1, Tanana #2 and Kaltag #2 crews which left Alaska for duty in California on July 1 will return to Fairbanks on Friday, July 18 at approximately 3:00 PM.

Moderate weather conditions in California have helped firefighters make good progress on the 16 large fires and complexes. Across the nation, 23 fires or complexes have burned nearly 680,000 acres. Firefighters contained four large fires yesterday, one each in Alaska, California, Colorado, and Texas. Fire managers are pre-positioning crews and equipment in Oregon and Washington in anticipation of dry lightning storms this weekend.

Australia, New Zealand, and Canada are providing 59 fire specialists and managers to assist with fire suppression operations in California. Canada is also providing two crews to California.

Eight MAFFS C-130 air tankers are supporting California. The aircraft are based at McClellan Airport in Sacramento, California. North Carolina. Aircraft are provided by

the 145th Airlift Wing, Charlotte North Carolina, the 302nd Airlift Wing, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

 Fairbanks Area:
 907-451-2626

 Delta Area:
 907-895-2106

 Tok Area:
 907-883-5134

 Mat-Su District:
 907-761-6312

 Kenai-Kodiak Area:
 907-260-4269

 Valdez/ Copper River Area:
 907-822-5536

 Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):
 907-766-2120

 For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/
 - Map of Current Fires: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php
 - o Situation Report: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf
 - o National Fire Situation: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildla
 nd%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php
- Creating Defensible Space: http://firewise.org/ and http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, http://511.alaska.gov/

Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/

- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm
- National Parks Service: http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
- National Weather Service: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: http://www.fws.gov/fire/
- USDA Forest Service: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/
- Federal Aviation Administration: http://www.faa.gov/

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service. Note: Fire acreage estimates frequently change due to more accurate mapping and other factors.

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^{*}In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.